

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6234

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-79

TAGS: MCAP, GW, NATO

SUBJECT: DPC MEETING DECEMBER 20: BUNDESWEHR REORGANIZATION

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

REF: A. BONN 18242

B. BONN 17385

C. USNATO 5736

SUMMARY. HIGH LEVEL TEAM OF NATIONAL EXPERTS BRIEFED DPC ON DECEMBER 20 ON NEW GERMAN FORCE STRUTURE. SYG LUNS CHARACTERIZED BRIEFING AS LUCID AND COMPREHENSIVE AND INVITED NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO PROVIDE POLITICAL AUTHORITIES WITH AN ASSESSMENT OF BUNDESWEHR REORGANIZATION PLAN. DESCRIPTION OF REORGANIZATION WAS IN LINE WITH REFTELS AND PROVOKED QUESTIONS ON CONFIDENTIAL

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EQUIPMENT PLANS, RELATIONSHIP TO MBFR, AND MANPOWER.  
END SUMMARY.

1. HIGH LEVEL TEAM OF NATIONAL EXPERTS, HEADED BY ADM

ZIMMERMAN, INSPECTOR GENERAL OF ARMED FORCES, BRIEFED DPC ON DECEMBER 20 ON NEW GERMAN FORCE STRUCTURE, THUS CONTINUING FRG CONSULTATIONS WITH NATO. DESCRIPTION OF BUNDESWEHR REORGANIZATION WAS IN LINE WITH REFTELS, BUT PROVIDED MORE DETAILS. COMPLETE BRIEFING IS BEING POUCHED TO WASHINGTON AND BONN.

2. SYG LUNS INVITED NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO PROVIDE POLITICAL AUTHORITIES WITH A MILITARY ASSESSMENT OF GERMAN RESTRUCTURING PLANS. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN MC (ADM MINTER) SAID MC HAD RECEIVED SAME BRIEFING MORNING OF DECEMBER 20 AND HAD REQUESTED SACEUR TO PROVIDE MC WITH AN ASSESSMENT BY MID-FEBRUARY 1974.

3. UK, CANADA, AND ITALY ASKED QUESTIONS ON EQUIPMENT PLANS. FRG EXPERTS REPLIED THAT UNDER NEW STRUCTURE, UNITS WOULD BE SMALLER AND BETTER EQUIPPED. THERE WILL BE AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 600 BATTLE TANKS AND GUN-EQUIPPED TANK DESTROYERS AND CLOSE TO 2,000 ANTI-TANK ROCKET SYSTEM. FRG STRESSED THAT MAJOR AIM OF RESTRUCTURING IS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR EQUIPMENT MODERNIZATION BY REDUCING OPERATING COSTS. IN PAST FEW YEARS, THERE HAS BEEN A DECLINE IN PORTION OF DEFENSE BUDGET FOR INVESTMENT. NEW STRUCTURE WILL ARREST DECLINE AND ASSURE THAT AT LEAST 30 PERCENT OF BUDGET WILL BE FOR EQUIPMENT. IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT 30 PERCENT REQUIREMENT WAS BASED ON EXPERIENCE, RATHER THAN LOGIC OR ANY SPECIAL FORMULA.

4. IN RESPONSE TO CANADIAN (AMB MENZIES) QUESTION ON RELATIONSHIP OF REORGANIZATION TO POSSIBLE REDUCTIONS UNDER MBFR, FRG EXPRER (DR. WIECK, MOD) SAID IT IS ENVISAGED THAT NEW STRUCTURE WILL BE REALIZED BY 1978 WITH A PEACETIME STRENGTH OF 495 THOUSAND (INCLUDING 30 THOUSAND STANDBY RESERVES, WHO ARE CONSIDERED ALMOST AS MUCH A PART OF THE REGULAR MILITARY AS OTHER SOLDIERS). HENCE BUNDESWEHR STRENGTH FOR MBFR PURPOSES IS 495 THOUSAND. EXPERT INDICATED POTENTIAL MBFR REQUIREMENTS WERE KEPT IN MIND WHEN DRAWING UP RESTRUCTURING PLAN, INCLUDING CADRE STRENGTH UNITS.  
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5. UK (PECK) ASKED ABOUT RATIO OF REGULAR TO CONSCRIPT PERSONNEL AND WHETHER ANY FUTURE CHANGE IN THAT RATIO WOULD AFFECT STANDBY RESERVE. FRG EXPERT STATED CURRENT RATIO IN ACTIVE FORCE IS ROUGHLY ON-HALF REGULARS AND ONE-HALF CONSCRIPTS AND THAT THIS RATIO HAS BEEN GENERALLY MAINTAINED OVER QUITE A FEW YEARS. HE ADDED IT WAS ANTICIPATED THAT THIS RATIO WOULD BE MAINTAINED IN THE FUTURE, THAT NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION SYSTEM OF 15 MONTHS WAS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF GERMAN PLAN, AND THAT AVAILABILITY OF WELL TRAINED STANDBY RESERVES WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY BALANCE BETWEEN REGULAR AND CONSCRIPTED PERSONNEL.  
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**To:** STATE  
SECDEF INFO BONN  
BRUSSELS  
LONDON  
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ROME  
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